



CITY OF DETROIT
LAW DEPARTMENT

COLEMAN A. YOUNG MUNICIPAL CENTER
2 WOODWARD AVENUE, SUITE 500
DETROIT, MICHIGAN 48226-3535
PHONE 313•224•4550
FAX 313•224•5505
WWW.DETROITMI.GOV

February 26, 2013

Shawn Musgrave
MuckRock News
DEPT MR 2267
P.O. Box 55819
Boston, MA 02205-5819

RE: Freedom of Information Act Request Dated November 28, 2012 Concerning Use of Aerial Drones

Dear Mr. or Ms. Musgrave:

This letter serves as the City of Detroit's response to the above-referenced matter. The City of Detroit Law Department Governmental Affairs Section is in receipt of your email, which was submitted to the Detroit Police Department Office of Public Information. Thank you for your patience regarding this matter.

Your email requests:

- "1. any requests for proposals, proposals submitted by vendors, contracts, budgets or cost allocations for the purchase, research of and/or use of aerial drones, UAs, UAVs, and UASs (hereinafter "drones");
2. any policies, guidelines, manuals and/or instructions on use of drones, including on the legal process required (such as a warrant or court order), if any, before operating a drone;
3. any records concerning use of drones now or plans to use drones in the future including:
 - a. the types of investigations or instances in which this institution is using or plans to use drones, or how it plans to support, manage or oversee the usage of drones by another department or office;
 - b. policies, guidelines, manuals and/or instructions on storage requirements or procedures for video or static images obtained through use of drones, including retention times;



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- c. the altitude at which drones can or do fly;
- d. drones' ability to carry weapons."

Your request is denied pursuant to MCL 15.233(1).

Based on information provided by Detroit Police Department (DPD) Law Unit personnel, your request does not involve the DPD. Therefore, your request was forwarded to the City of Detroit Finance Department Purchasing. Based on information provided by Purchasing personnel, they are unable to conduct a search for the requested records without additional information. In that regard, they require Purchase Order Number, RFQ or RFP Number that was advertised by Purchasing for a specific project. Upon receipt of additional information, we will re-process your request with Purchasing.

Please note that pursuant to Section 10 of the Michigan Freedom of Information Act, being MCL 15.240, a person receiving a written denial of a request may do one of the following:

- 1) Submit a written appeal to the head of the public body denying the request. Such appeal, if submitted, should specifically state the word "appeal" and identify the reason or reasons for reversal of the denial. MCL 15.240(1)(a); or
- 2) Commence an action in the circuit court to compel the disclosure of the public records within 180 days after the public body's denial of the request. MCL 15.240(1)(b). If a court finds that the information withheld by a public body is not exempt from disclosure, the requesting party may receive the requested record and, at the discretion of the court, reasonable attorney fees and /or costs. MCL 15.240(6) and (7).

Very truly yours,

Ellen Ha
Senior Assistant Corporation Counsel
Governmental Affairs Section
(313) 237-5067

EH/